

Appln No. 10/731,216
Amdt date August 11, 2004
Reply to Office action of May 11, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A grip for attachment to a firearm, the grip having a lower end and an upper end and comprising:

an internal battery storage chamber having at least one ~~inwardly-stepped~~ storage cavity that extends in a longitudinal direction from the lower end of the grip to the upper end of the grip to define a plurality of battery compartments for storing a plurality of batteries, wherein the at least one storage cavity comprises at least one step between adjacent battery compartments; and

wherein the lower end of the grip comprises an open end that leads into the at least one storage cavity allowing batteries to be sequentially inserted into the battery compartments of the at least one storage cavity.

2. (Currently Amended) The grip of claim 1, wherein the plurality of battery compartments are continuous and adjacently positioned longitudinally in series, such that each successive battery compartment in the series is smaller, traverse to the longitudinal direction, than its adjacent battery compartment as the battery compartments ascend from the lower end of the grip

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~~to the upper end of the grip when viewed from a lower portion of the grip to an upper portion of the grip.~~

3. (Original) The grip of claim 1, wherein each battery compartment is substantially cylindrical in shape.

4. (Currently Amended) The grip of claim 3, wherein the plurality of battery compartments are continuous and adjacently positioned longitudinally in series, such that each successive battery compartment in the series has a smaller diameter than its adjacent battery compartment as the battery compartments ascend from the lower end of the grip to the upper end of the grip ~~when viewed from a lower portion of the grip to an upper portion of the grip.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The grip of claim 1, wherein each battery compartment shares a common wall that is substantially smooth and extends substantially across the length of the storage cavity in the longitudinal direction.

6. (Currently Amended) The grip of claim 5, wherein the at least one step is disposed at a position opposed from the common wall, ~~each battery compartment forms a shoulder at its upper end for receiving and supporting an upper end of a battery.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The grip of claim 1, wherein each battery compartment is non-concentrically positioned with

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respect to its adjacent battery compartment ~~the remaining battery compartments~~, such that a side of each battery compartment is aligned to form a substantially smooth common wall that extends substantially across the length of the storage cavity in the longitudinal direction.

8. (Currently Amended) The grip of claim 1, wherein the at least one step comprises two steps ~~each battery compartment forms a shoulder at its upper end for receiving and supporting an upper end of one of the plurality of batteries~~.

9. (Original) The grip of claim 1, further comprising fastening means for removably attaching the grip to a firearm.

10. (Currently Amended) The grip of claim 1, further comprising a hinged pull tab fixedly attached to the lower end of the grip ~~a lower portion of the grip the~~, wherein the hinged pull tab is pivotally moveable for removably covering the open lower end of the grip ~~a lower open end of the storage cavity~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A firearm grip for attachment to a firearm, the firearm grip having a lower end and an upper end and comprising:

an internal battery storage chamber having at least one ~~inwardly stepped~~ storage cavity that extends in a longitudinal direction from the lower end of the grip to the upper end of the grip to define ~~comprises~~ a plurality of battery compartments that are adjacently positioned ~~longitudinally~~ in

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series in the longitudinal direction for storing a plurality of batteries, wherein the at least one storage cavity comprises at least one step between adjacent battery compartments;

wherein each successive battery compartment in the series is smaller, transverse to the longitudinal direction, than its adjacent battery compartment as the battery compartments ascend from the lower end of the grip to the upper end of the grip; ~~when viewed from a lower portion of the firearm grip to an upper portion of the firearm grip and~~

wherein each battery compartment shares a common wall that is substantially smooth and extends substantially across the length of the storage cavity; and

wherein the lower end of the grip comprises an open end that leads into the at least one storage cavity allowing batteries to be sequentially inserted into the battery compartments of the at least one storage cavity.

12. (Original) The firearm grip of claim 11, wherein each battery compartment is substantially cylindrical in shape.

13. (Currently Amended) The firearm grip of claim 11, wherein the at least one step is disposed at a position opposed from the common wall, ~~each battery compartment forms a shoulder at its upper end for receiving and supporting an upper end of one of the plurality of battery.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The firearm grip of claim 11, wherein each battery compartment is non-concentrically

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positioned with respect to its adjacent battery compartment the ~~remaining battery compartments~~, such that a side of each battery compartment is aligned to form the substantially smooth common wall that extends substantially across the length of the storage cavity in the longitudinal direction.

15. (Original) The firearm grip of claim 11, further comprising fastening means for removably attaching the firearm grip to a firearm.

16. (Currently Amended) The firearm grip of claim 11 ~~12~~, further comprising a hinged pull tab fixedly attached to the lower end of the grip ~~a lower portion of the grip~~ the, wherein the hinged pull tab is pivotally moveable for removably covering the open lower end of the grip ~~a lower open end of the storage cavity~~.

17. (Currently Amended) A firearm grip for attachment to a firearm, the firearm grip having a lower end and an upper end and comprising:

an internal battery storage chamber having at least two ~~inwardly stepped~~ storage cavities that each extend in a longitudinal direction from the lower end of the grip to the upper end of the grip to define ~~comprise~~ a plurality of battery compartments adjacently positioned ~~longitudinally~~ in series in the longitudinal direction for storing a plurality of batteries, wherein the at least two storage cavities each comprise a at

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least one storage cavity comprises at least one step between adjacent battery compartments;

wherein each successive battery compartment in the series is smaller, transverse to the longitudinal direction, than its adjacent battery compartment as the battery compartments ascend from the lower end of the grip to the upper end of the grip; ~~when viewed from a lower portion of the firearm grip to an upper portion of the firearm grip and~~

wherein the battery compartments within each of the at least two storage cavities ~~each battery compartment shares share~~ a common wall that is substantially smooth and extends substantially across the length of the its corresponding storage cavity in the longitudinal direction.

18. (Currently Amended) A firearm comprising:

a firearm grip having a lower end and an upper end and comprising an internal battery storage chamber with at least one inwardly stepped storage cavity that comprises a plurality of battery compartments adjacently positioned longitudinally in series for storing a plurality of batteries; and

wherein the lower end of the grip comprises an open end that leads into the at least one storage cavity allowing batteries to be sequentially inserted into the battery compartments of the at least one storage cavity.

19. (New) The grip of claim 1, wherein the at least one storage cavity extends substantially across the length of the grip in the longitudinal direction.

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20. (New) The grip of claim 11, wherein the at least one storage cavity extends substantially across the length of the grip in the longitudinal direction.

21. (New) The grip of claim 17, wherein the lower end of the grip comprises an open end that leads into each of the at least two storage cavities allowing batteries to be sequentially inserted into the battery compartments of each of the at least two storage cavities.

22. (New) The grip of claim 17, wherein a divider between a first of the at least two cavities and a second of the at least two cavities separates the first and second cavities and comprises a first wall that forms the common wall of the first cavity and a second wall that forms the common wall of the second cavity.

23. (New) A grip for attachment to a firearm, the grip having a lower end and an upper end and comprising:

an internal battery storage chamber having at least one storage cavity that extends in a longitudinal direction from the lower end of the grip to the upper end of the grip to define a plurality of battery compartments, wherein the at least one storage cavity comprises at least one step between adjacent battery compartments;

a plurality of batteries stored within the battery compartments, wherein the lower end of the grip comprises an

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open end that leads into the at least one storage cavity allowing the plurality of batteries to be sequentially inserted into the battery compartments of the at least one storage cavity.

24. (New) The grip of claim 23, wherein a current does not flow through the plurality of batteries when the plurality of batteries are stored in the battery compartments.